

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS
JULY 10, 2018**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION ADOPTING PRINCIPLES OF OPEN DATA AS A CORE VALUE AND DIRECTING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO IMPROVE DATA ACCESSIBILITY AND ASSOCIATED INNOVATION

DISCUSSION

The Water Boards are collaborating with other state agencies in the implementation of AB1755. The Water Boards must lead the open data efforts, in the area of water quality, groundwater, water rights, water conservation and domestic water supply. To achieve this goal, we will need to overcome internal challenges, which will require coordination among programs and Divisions across the Water Boards. A strategy and implementation plan will need to be developed and strong leadership and management support is necessary. There are great opportunities to improve the usability of the Water Boards data by implementing basic data management standards, procedures and protocols, such as a standard nomenclature for parameter naming that would ensure the interoperability among all water quality databases. Development of standards and analytical tools is a necessary step to ensure that the data and information is useful and meaningful. A more holistic approach for data management is required. An approach that considers all the steps in the data life management cycle from collection to assessment (QAQC) storage, documentation, reports and open data and analysis and communication.

This new vision for data management at the Water Boards will require a strong participation, involvement and coordination between DIT and OIMA.

California is working to increase access to water data collected by state agencies. The state board is piloting a project to make water quality datasets available online through an open data portal. The portal creates an opportunity to foster collaboration among state agencies, share and integrate existing datasets, improve state agency operations through data-driven decision making, and improve transparency and accountability.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the Board adopt the Open Data Resolution as drafted by staff?

FISCAL IMPACT

The State Water Resources Control Board is implementing Open Data protocols within existing resources to the extent possible.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The Resolution is not binding on Regional Boards. However, it does recommend that Regional Boards take certain actions in support of its implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution as drafted.